



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

For Immediate Release
May 31, 2006

Contact: Kerry Krone
517-373-1758

Sen. Cassis looking forward to co-chairing Special Joint Committee on Economic Growth

LANSING—State Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, today praised the members of a new committee charged with recommending a replacement to the state's Single Business Tax, and she said they will work cooperatively with each other to find a substitute for the widely despised tax.

"At a time of economic crisis and anguish in the hearts of Michigan workers, I take this task very seriously," said Cassis, co-chair of the Special Joint Committee on Economic Growth. "I am determined to work in a nonpartisan way to come up with guidelines to propose to the entire Legislature a substitute for an antiquated and outmoded business tax."

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche on Tuesday announced the formation of the bipartisan, House-Senate committee, and the Senate and House today approved the joint resolution creating it. The committee will study options for replacing the Single Business Tax and recommend a replacement plan to the Legislature no later than Dec. 1.

In addition to Cassis, Sikkema appointed to the committee Sens. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township, and Buzz Thomas, D-Detroit. The House members appointed by DeRoche are Reps. Fulton Sheen (co-chair), R-Plainwell, Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, and Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township.

Cassis said she was "elated" with the choice of committee members, and she said they are "rich with talent and people of good will" who will do the tough but necessary work to find a replacement for the SBT.

"I am determined that all our work will be in a nonpartisan manner for the good of our state, for the good of our people," said Cassis. "It is with a sincere sense of determination and purpose that we engage, that we work together, in the best interests of our beloved Great Lakes State."

The House and Senate are poised to act on approving an initiative petition that ends the SBT on Dec. 31, 2007. Petition signatures were presented to the state on Tuesday. The Secretary of State and Board of State Canvassers have 60 days to certify the SBT petition signatures. Once the signatures are certified, the Legislature has 40 days to approve the initiative as law. The governor plays no role in the SBT elimination under the initiative-petition process.

###